IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (*Currently Amended*) An extension for releasing pressurized contents of a canister, comprising:

an actuator cap having an outer peripheral surface, a top end, a bottom end, and an aperture formed in said top end, said bottom end having an opening adapted for mounting onto the canister;

a depressible actuator tab disposed across the aperture and hingedly secured to said actuator cap, said actuator tab having a valve stem receiving orifice for receiving a valve stem disposed on the canister and a discharge channel in fluid communication with the valve stem for delivering the pressurized contents of the canister;

a threaded projection extending outward from the outer peripheral surface of said actuator cap, the projection having a discharge orifice disposed along the end of the projection; [[,]] ~~said threaded projection being adapted to receive a threaded connector from a conventional discharge hose; and~~

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an actuator hinge for securing said actuator tab to said actuator cap, said actuator hinge allowing said actuator tab to move freely from an unactuated position to a depressed actuated position; and

a refrigerant discharge hose comprising an elongate tubular body having a receiving end and a discharge end, the receiving end including a threaded fitting removably attached to said threaded projection, the discharge end including a disconnect coupler fitting for engaging a vehicle air conditioning unit;

whereby said actuator tab, when depressed, is adapted for contacting the valve stem of the canister to release the pressurized contents of the canister, the contents being delivered through the discharge channel and out of the discharge orifice on said projection.

Claim 2. (*Original*) The extension for releasing the pressurized contents of a canister according to claim 1, further comprising an actuator cap lid secured to said actuator cap.

Claim 3. (*Original*) The extension for releasing the pressurized contents of a canister according to claim 2, further comprising a hinge attaching said actuator cap lid to said actuator cap.

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Claim 4. (*Original*) The extension for releasing the pressurized contents of a canister according to claim 1, further comprising a plurality of finger grooves disposed on a top surface of said actuator tab for providing a frictional surface.

Claim 5. (*Previously Presented*) The extension for releasing the pressurized contents of a canister according to claim 1, further comprising an integrated locking mechanism for securing said actuator tab in the depressed actuated position, said locking mechanism comprising a lock hook integrally formed in said actuator cap and an engaging hook disposed along a bottom surface of said actuator tab.

Claim 6. (*Currently Amended*) A refrigerant canister with an extension for releasing pressurized contents of the canister, comprising:

a housing having a generally cylindrical main body with a top surface, an opening in said top surface and a upstanding rim surrounding said opening;

a housing cover sealably secured to said upstanding rim to seal said opening;

a valve stem disposed through the center of said housing cover having a top portion and a bottom portion, said top portion projecting upward from said housing cover;

an actuator cap having an outer peripheral surface, a top end, a bottom end, and an aperture formed in said top end, said bottom end having an opening adapted for mounting onto the

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canister;

a depressible actuator tab disposed across said aperture and hingedly secured to said actuator cap, said actuator tab having a valve stem receiving orifice for receiving said valve stem and a discharge channel in fluid communication with said valve stem for delivering the pressurized contents of said canister;

a threaded projection extending outward from said outer peripheral surface of said actuator cap, said projection having a discharge orifice disposed along the end of the projection; ~~and~~

an actuator hinge for securing said actuator tab to said actuator cap, said actuator hinge allowing said actuator tab to move freely from an unactuated position to a depressed actuated position; and

a refrigerant discharge hose comprising an elongate tubular body having a receiving end and a discharge end, the receiving end including a threaded fitting removably attached to said threaded projection, the discharge end including a disconnect coupler fitting for engaging a vehicle air conditioning unit;

whereby said actuator tab, when depressed, contacts the valve stem of the canister to release the pressurized contents of the canister, the contents being delivered through the discharge channel and out of the discharge orifice on said projection.

Claims 7-10. (*Canceled*)

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Claim 11. (*Original*) The refrigerant canister with an extension for releasing the pressurized contents of the canister according to claim 6, further comprising an actuator cap lid secured to the said actuator cap.

Claim 12. (*Currently Amended*) The refrigerant canister with an extension for releasing the pressurized contents of the canister according to claim ~~12~~ 11, wherein said actuator cap lid is hingedly secured to said actuator cap by a hinge.

Claim 13. (*Original*) The refrigerant canister with an extension for releasing the pressurized contents of the canister according to claim 6, further comprising a plurality of finger grooves disposed on a top surface of said actuator tab for providing a frictional surface.

Claim 14. (*Previously Presented*) The refrigerant canister with an extension for releasing the pressurized contents of the canister according to claim 6, further comprising an integrated locking mechanism for securing said actuator tab in the depressed actuated position, said locking mechanism comprising a lock hook integrally formed in said actuator cap and an engaging hook disposed along a bottom surface of said actuator tab.

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Claim 15. (*Currently Amended*) A vehicle refrigerant canister with an extension for delivering pressurized contents of the canister to an air conditioning unit of a vehicle, comprising:

a housing having a generally cylindrical main body with a top surface, an opening in said top surface and a upstanding rim surrounding said opening;

a housing cover sealably secured to said upstanding rim to seal said opening;

a valve stem disposed through the center of said housing cover having a top portion and a bottom portion, said top portion projecting upward from said housing cover;

an actuator cap having an outer peripheral surface, a top end, a bottom end, and an aperture formed in said top end, said bottom end having an opening adapted for mounting onto the canister;

a depressible actuator tab disposed across said aperture and hingedly secured to said actuator cap, said actuator tab having a valve stem receiving orifice for receiving said valve stem and a discharge channel in fluid communication with said valve stem for delivering the pressurized contents of said canister;

a threaded projection extending outward from said outer peripheral surface of said actuator cap, said projection having a discharge orifice disposed along the end of the projection;

an actuator hinge for securing said actuator tab to said actuator cap, said actuator hinge

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allowing said actuator tab to move freely from an unactuated position to a depressed actuated position; and

a refrigerant charging hose removably secured to said threaded projection for delivering the released contents of said canister to the air conditioning unit of the vehicle, said charging hose having an engaging end, a discharge end, a threaded fitting disposed on said engaging end for ~~engaging~~ removably attachment to said threaded projection and a disconnect fitting disposed on said discharge end for engaging the air conditioning unit of the vehicle;

whereby said actuator tab, when depressed, contacts the valve stem of the container to release the pressurized contents of the container, the contents being delivered through the discharge channel and out of the discharge orifice on said projection into said charging hose to be delivered to the vehicle air conditioning unit.

Claims 16-17. (*Canceled*)

Claim 18. (*Original*) The refrigerant canister with an extension for releasing the pressurized contents of the canister according to claim 15, further comprising an actuator cap lid secured to the said actuator cap.

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Claim 19. (*Previously Presented*) The refrigerant canister with an extension for releasing the pressurized contents of the canister according to claim 18, wherein said actuator cap lid is secured to said actuator cap by a hinge.

Claim 20. (*Previously Presented*) The refrigerant canister with an extension for releasing the pressurized contents of the canister according to claim 15, further comprising an integrated locking mechanism for securing said actuator tab in the depressed actuated position, said locking mechanism comprising a lock hook integrally formed in said actuator cap and an engaging hook disposed along a bottom surface of said actuator tab.

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